

Serial No. 09/706,294

C1  
cont  
attached to said side edges of said absorbent chassis in an opposite waist region of said absorbent article to provide a releasable joint; and

c) a fastener permanently attached to each of said second side margins of said side panels, wherein said fastener defines a fastener edge length in said longitudinal direction and said releasable joint defines a releasable joint length in said longitudinal direction, wherein said releasable joint length is greater than said fastener edge length.

Sub B1  
a2  
23. (Once Amended) A pant-like, refastenable, disposable absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, said absorbent article comprising:

a) an absorbent chassis which defines an exterior surface, an interior surface opposite said exterior surface, a pair of laterally opposed side edges and a pair of longitudinally opposed waist edges; and

b) a pair of opposed back panels which are permanently attached to said side edges of said absorbent chassis in said back waist region of said absorbent article;

c) a pair of opposed front panels which are permanently attached to said side edges of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region of said absorbent article wherein said front panel and said back panel are releasably connected together along a side seam to provide a releasable joint and to define a waist opening and a pair of leg openings and provide said absorbent article; and

d) a fastener permanently attached to each of said back panels adjacent said side seams and configured to refastenably engage one of said front panels and upon disengagement of said releasable joints, said exterior surface of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region, wherein said fastener defines a fastener edge length in said longitudinal direction and said releasable joint defines a releasable joint length in said longitudinal direction, wherein said releasable joint length is greater than said fastener edge length.